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Statement submitted by Convention of Independent Financial Advisors, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

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Statement

In December 2013, an exchange of views on the private sector's perspective on the post-2015 development agenda, global partnerships and innovative financing was held by Convention of Independent Financial Advisors under the auspices of the Forum for Small States. Some 20 Member State delegates participated in exchanging views with Convention panellists. This was an opportunity to listen to innovative presentations from the organization, in a field not open to all, from a pro-market and pro-investors' perspective.

Convention of Independent Financial Advisors was presented as the only global investment organization with special consultative status at the Economic and Social Council, representing 20 per cent of worldwide investments, with a network of over 750,000 financial advisers. The voice of the organization is meant to offer an alternative view on the resolution of and solutions to the current world financial crisis, with an emphasis on ethical financial markets and investments.

It was observed that the financial crises in the past 20 years started mostly in the large developed economies: the savings and loans debacle in the 1990s; the 1998 emerging market crisis provoked by long-term capital management; the 2000 dot-com bubble; the 2003 Enron collapse; and the 2008 meltdown stemming from excessive speculation by the large banking institutions.

The role of the organization is to raise awareness of the risk of such disasters plunging economies into depression again and throwing millions of people into unemployment. It also tries to spot future major socioeconomic conflicts that could constitute a systemic threat to the world economy. Of major concern is the looming clash between generations and financial market imbalances in world trade defeating the United Nations development agenda and the Millennium Development Goals.

It was noted that after 14 years of implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, 842 million people are still suffering from hunger and child labour and slavery numbers remain high. The Gini coefficient improved by a mere 1.4 points between 2002 and 2010. Goal 8 (promoting partnerships with civil society and the private sector) has yielded only modest results.

The organization's panellists explained how excessive regulations and taxation have become dispiriting factors for investors, as well as job-killers. The organization's Charter of Investors Rights adopted in 2005 encourages new ethical investments in developing countries in an investor-friendly context.

It was observed that the post-2015 development agenda should encourage basic values for young generations of investors, such as honesty, and an entrepreneurial, risk-oriented and work-oriented spirit. The post-2015 development agenda requires grass-root consultations with civil society organizations, with young generations and with the private sector. Failure to have such partnerships, promoted by Goal 8, will render it meaningless. The post-2015 keyword "SMART" must truly reflect "specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and time-bound quantitative targets" agreed to by all stakeholders.